



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2005
District: 7 – Los Angeles/Ventura Counties
Contact: Judy Gish
Phone: (213) 897-3487

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTESIA FREEWAY (SR-91) PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT TO BEGIN

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will close the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool) lanes on eastbound and westbound Artesia Freeway (SR-91), from Downey Avenue in Bellflower to Atlantic Avenue in Long Beach, on December 7, 2005 as the first of a three-phase HOV lane reconstruction and pavement replacement project.

The first phase, covering two miles, involves installation of concrete median barriers adjacent to the HOV lanes, damaged pavement replacement on all eastbound and westbound lanes, and HOV lane improvements. Lane and ramp closures will occur, however, most work impacting traffic will occur at night.

The three phase HOV lane reconstruction and pavement replacement project will ultimately extend 8 miles on SR-91 from Downey Avenue to Vermont Avenue. The Artesia Freeway (SR-91) is one of the most heavily traveled roads in Los Angeles County and was also one of the first freeways to offer carpool lanes. As a result of heavy use, the asphalt pavement has experienced extensive wear. New pavement will improve safety and mobility for motorists. The 20-year longevity of the new pavement materials will also reduce the need for repeated maintenance and repair. The expected time frame for completion is winter 2007.

####

